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A Good Word for Father.

"Modest, shrinking fathers"—notice that the words are quoted—will feel an inclination to take off their hats to Dr. James R. Price, of Chicago, when they learn what he has said about them. In the course of an address at a convention of physicians this champion of fatherhood declared that the father is just as important a factor in the evolution of the welfare of the race as his mate. "I will not minimize the importance of motherhood," he continued, "for I deem it the most divine attribute conferred by the Creator; but many years of experience as a public school teacher and physician has convinced me beyond the shadow of a doubt of the truth of the old saying, 'As the father, so the child.' The father is the real power for good or evil. He is the dominating force of civilization."

The utterances of this Chicago medico should have the effect of drawing the "modest, shrinking father" out of the shadowy background and putting him up close to the limelight. He should feel a new courage animating him, and as a result thereof assert his right to recognition as the head of the family. And why not? Who pays the rent? The "modest, shrinking father." Who bluffs the bill collector? The "m., s. f." Who sees to it that all members of the family are housed, fed and clothed? The "m., s. f." Who chastises the boys for playing "hookey" and for other misdemeanors? The "m., s. f." Who digs the garden and jaws the neighbor about trespassing chickens? The "m., s. f." In short, Who is, or ought to be, the real boss around the house? Why, this same "modest, shrinking father"

And yet, notwithstanding all that they

have done, there are thousands of fathers who have been content to do the wallflower act, as it were—modest, shrinking creatures who seemed to feel that they were merely tolerated. But now that a champion has risen in their behalf, and has pointed out their claims to recognition as the head of the family, if not a lord of creation, it is highly probable that these fathers will cease to be modest and shrinking, will assert their rights, and will push to completion the plans for observance annually, all over the nation, of a "Fathers' Day."

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